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back to 1798, when four persons, John and Sophia Fisher and John and Cattern Pettet, formed themselves into a church, meeting on Owen's creek and Silver creek, in what is now Clark county. The Baptist churches early attained to an important place, and in many localities they were on the ground and flourishing when the Presbyterian and Methodist denominations made their appearance. In some places, however, these rural Baptist churches were supplanted by other denominations, and the causes of this decadence are attributed by some to the refusal of such churches to "grow" with the general progress of opinion.

By 1809 two district associations were organized; by 1825 these had grown to eleven, with more than seventy-five churches, estimating those included at dates of organizations. A list of the preachers and laymen who were prominent in these early churches includes many men of force and ability who played their part in the making of the State—the Holmans, Jesse L. and William H., Milton Stapp, the Stotts, the Vawters, Isaac McCoy, and others; and the numerous biographical sketches which form a conspicuous part of Mr. Stott's book are, in many instances, not only interesting studies in character, but also throw light upon the times. They reveal various virtues and shortcomings of those days—sturdiness, zeal and heroism on the one hand, and on the other a narrowness and intolerance of opinion that seems insufferable at the present day. Judged charitably, these opinions, of course, then had all the sanctity of high truth, and the unyielding tenacity with which they were held was one evidence of the virtues.

"Indiana Baptist History" is published by the author, 1908, and copies may be had by addressing William T. Stott, superintendent Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home, Knightstown, Ind.

GEORGE S. COTTMAN.

HISTORY OF MICHIGAN CITY.

[By Rollo B. Oglesbee and Albert Hale. Illustrated by Albert J. Widdell. 1908.]

The preservation of local history is finding some advocates in different parts of the State. This work and the following

mentioned give evidence of this fact. The authors have been engaged in their professions but have taken time for this public service. Is it not a public service to preserve the historical facts of a community?

The "History of Michigan City" was begun by Mr. Oglesbee in 1905, but in 1907, finding it impossible on account of pressing business duties to complete the work alone, he called on Albert Hale, a friend, with whose aid it has been finished this year. It is with great regret that we have to chronicle almost at the same time, the appearance of this work and the death of its principal author. In his death, which occurred about a month ago, the historical as well as the official circles of the State (Mr. Oglesbee was at the time at the head of the bank department of the State Auditor's office) have suffered loss.

Mr. Oglesbee has given much time and space to the early struggles in the Northwest Territory long before Michigan City was thought of. This part of the story is by no means new, but it is the best feature of the volume. Mr. Oglesbee contends that the first purchase of land for the city was in November, 1830, instead of September, 1833, as was maintained by others.

The discussion of the Michigan Road takes up a chapter of considerable interest. The Railroads, Public Improvements and the Indiana Prison are given separate chapters. The last mentioned chapter is a valuable contribution. It is appreciative of the growth of this institution into a modern, well-conducted establishment belonging to all the people of the commonwealth.

The closing chapters—except the one on the Prison—have been hurriedly written and edited. One chapter is devoted to a private corporation. This is a part of Michigan City, it is true, but it resembles advertising, and therefore lessens the value of the book as history.

The space given to "Schools, Libraries, Churches, Cemeteries, and Parks" amounts to one chapter of ten pages. Mr. Oglesbee himself thought this entirely too insignificant—and rightly—but was forced to yield. The absence of a table of contents and index is a serious oversight.

Mr. Oglesbee deserves great credit for collecting the facts

about Michigan City. It is hoped that he may have successors in Indiana.

DEMARCHUS C. BROWN.

A TWENTIETH CENTURY HISTORY OF MARSHALL COUNTY, INDIANA.

[By Daniel McDonald. Illustrated. Two volumes, \$18. Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago.]

Mr. McDonald is the gentleman who, as a member of the Indiana State Senate, secured the passage of a bill to commemorate the removal of the Pottawattomies, and especially to cherish the record of the old chief Menominee. It can readily be understood, therefore, that he writes with interest and some authority about the early history of the northern part of Indiana, and in particular Marshall county.

Now that the Indian is a vanishing race, the necessity of recording the life and customs of these people becomes manifest to all, and Mr. McDonald is a leader in perpetuating the good work.

The prehistoric features, mound builders, and buffaloes, for instance, are not neglected. A large part of the first volume is taken up with the movements of the population and the organization of the county in 1836.

The main point in the histories of Indiana counties at present is the preservation of the facts. Much will be lost in manuscripts, letters and newspapers unless men like Mr. McDonald collect and preserve them. The writing of a scientific history will come later on. However, Mr. McDonald shows considerable skill in the arrangement of this material and gives the various sections their proportionate value. This is a difficult thing because of local pressure to be represented in the history.

The second volume contains the biographies of the well-known and older inhabitants of Marshall county, with portraits. It is in this part that local and personal pressure may be put upon an author. Mr. McDonald has done this fairly well, but not so well as the earlier history. One gets the impression that the history has been a work of love and not profit. There is a good table of contents and index.

DEMARCHUS C. BROWN.